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Donovan Cites Stand After N.A.A.C.P. Attack

By RICHARD P. HUNT

James B. Donovan, the Democratic-Liberal candidate for the Senate, pledged "firm support" for civil rights action today following criticism from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Two N.A.A.C.P. spokesmen had denounced Mr. Donovan for having said in a telecast Monday night that "a great wave of legislation is needed" on civil rights but that "courageous enforcement of existing laws" is.

In a telegram to Basil Patterson, chairman of the Political Action Committee of the N.A.A.C.P.'s New York City branch, Mr. Donovan said:

"I have spoken at length on this subject at many places and regret if brevity of time last night in any manner could lead to a misunderstanding of my position."

Legislation Backed

Mr. Donovan added that there was "a specific need" for Federal legislation to abolish poll taxes and to provide a uniform test of literacy for voters, and for state legislation to enable the Commission for Human Rights to initiate investigations.

He told a newsman in Buffalo that the telegram had been sent "to correct a series of half-truths and distortions out of context of my position on civil rights."

Earlier Dr. Eugene T. Reed of Amityville, L. I., president of the New York State branch of the N. A. A. C. P., had attacked Mr. Donovan in telegrams to William H. McKeon, the Democratic state chairman, and Dr. Timothy Costello, chairman of the Liberal party.

Dr. Reed said Mr. Donovan's statement on Monday night showed "an inexcusable ignorance or disregard of the problems of minority groups in America." He urged the two parties to "disavow this misrepresentation of their party platform pledges."

'Correction' Asked

In a similar protest, Mr. Patterson had urged Mr. Donovan in a telegram to correct his position. "You are doing the cause of civil rights much harm by such statements," Mr. Patterson said.

"No great wave of new legislation [on civil rights] is needed. Most of these [laws] are not needed. Most of them can come

later, but priority must be given to the basic human rights that were guaranteed 100 years ago and what's been needed is courageous enforcement."

In his telegram to Mr. Patterson, Mr. Donovan said that these words were spoken as "an answer to repeated attempts by my Republican adversary to detract from President Kennedy's magnificent handling of the Oxford, Miss., situation."

He was referring to Senator Jacob K. Javits, the Republican candidate for Senator, and the use of Federal troops and marshals in the University of Mississippi riots this month.

Donovan Hits 'Whispering'

By WOLFGANG SAXON

Special to The New York Times

BUFFALO, Oct. 30—James B. Donovan charged today that a "whispering campaign" was being waged against him in an attempt to associate him personally with some of the clients he has represented as a lawyer.

"I regard this as an attack on the very fundamentals of our American way of life," Mr. Donovan said at a news conference in Buffalo.

It is basic to American jus-

tice, he remarked, that a lawyer in court should represent his client's viewpoint, whether he be poor or unpopular, a murderer or a Communist.

Mr. Donovan, who served as appointed counsel for Col. Rudolf Abel, the Soviet spy, said he had received letters from lawyers indicating that such a whispering campaign was being waged by Republicans.

"I expect every lawyer in the state to repudiate such an effort," Mr. Donovan said.

He spoke in response to a report that George E. Leighty, chairman of the Railway Labor's Political League, had called for the defeat of Mr. Donovan as the "architect" of a strike insurance plan adopted by the industry in 1959.

A Friendly Reception

Except for this angry reaction and some shafts aimed at Senator Javits, his opponent, Mr. Donovan went through his first campaign visit to Erie and Niagara Counties with a confident and relaxed air. Inoring a steady drizzle and a case of laryngitis, he addressed groups of law students, businessmen and Democratic workers at widely scattered points. His reception was friendly throughout.

At the University of Buffalo Law School, he lectured to about 150 students on the different concepts of justice held in the United States and in a "police state" like the Soviet Union.

He was the guest of honor at a luncheon of the Greater Buffalo Advertising Club. There he explained his views of the role to be played by private enterprise in such Federal programs as medical insurance for the aged.

He asserted further that New York State needed a Democratic Senator if it is to receive its proper share of Federal contracts. He said that these now represented only "a miserable dribble."